(c) the target fixed for the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) The Community Information Centres (CICs) are intended to provide, *inter alia*, the following benefits for socio-economic development of the community in the North-East region:

(i) internet connectivity through NICNET, *inter alia*, enabling web-browsing and e-mail facilities.

(ii) interface between citizens and Government.

(iii) distance learning programmes.

(iv) familiarising use of computer systems, specially amongst school children.

(v) IT enabled services including e-commerce.

(vi) generation of employment opportunities, and

(vii) dissemination of information on plan initiatives, national programmes, disaster management system, public health awareness, etc.

(b) Thirty Community Information Centres have been set up in the seven North-East States and Sikkim under a pilot project undertaken during 2000.

(c) One hundred and fifty more Community Information Centres are to be set up in the seven North-East States and Sikkim during the current financial year.

Export of software

1296. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of export of software during the current year;

(b) whether Government have set any target therefor;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there has been any slackness in the area of software export after September 11 terrorist attack in America; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by Government to cope up with such a situation?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) The Software exports during the current financial year (April—September, 2001) is Rs. 16500 crores.

(b) to (d) An export target of Rs. 36500 crores has been set for the year 2001-02, out of which about 45% has been met during the period April-September, 2001. There has been no significant slackness in IT sector in India specifically because of the September 11 terrorist attack in America.

(e) Does not arise.

Computer Information Centres in N.E.

1297. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of implementation of the programme to establish Computer Information Centres in all the blocks of NER announced by the Prime Minister on 21-22 January, 2000;

(b) the strategy and action plan finalised to provide computer facilities in each block of the NER indicating programme for its sustenance through adequate skilled manpower and its effective utility; and

(c) the details of other IT programmes being implemented in the NER indicating achievement of each programme?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) In implementation of the Prime Minister's announcement on 21-22nd January, 2000 a pilot project for setting up 30 Community Information Centres (CICs) has since been completed. Site preparation work and other procedural formalities for setting up centres at the remaining 457 block headquarters of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim has commenced.

(b) Computer facilities will become available at these blocks through programmes hosted by National Informatics Centre in consultation with the State Governments. The functioning of these centres will be arranged through skilled manpower who will provide necessary technical assistance to the users. Programmes for sustenance are to be devised only after due consideration of the utilisation of the facilities provided at centres.

(c) Other initiatives for comprehensive computerisation in these States include the following: